

**ASSIGNMENT**

WHEREAS, we, Frank Cuttitta, of 7908 Hope Valley Court, Adamstown, Maryland 21701, a citizen of the United States of America, Ted H. Elsasser, of 5910 Osage Street, Berwyn Heights, Maryland 20740, a citizen of the United States of America, Alfredo Martinez, of 2001 Great Falls Street, McLean, Virginia 22101, a citizen of Spain, and Rubén Pío, of Juan de Tarazona 297 5A, 31015 Pamplona, Spain, a citizen of Spain, employees of the Department of Health and Human Services at the time the invention was made, have invented DETERMINATION OF ADRENOMEDULLIN-BINDING PROTEINS for which the following patent applications have been filed:

U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/153,397, filed on September 10, 1999;  
PCT Application No. PCT/US00/24722 filed on September 8, 2000; and  
U.S. Application No. 10/070,853 filed on August 26, 2002;

all three of which applications are collectively referred to herein as "the patent applications."

WHEREAS, the conditions under which said invention was made are such as to entitle the Government of the United States of America under Paragraph 1(a) of Executive order 10096, to the entire right, title, and interest, both domestic and foreign, of the invention and patent applications; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States of America is desirous of acquiring all domestic and foreign right, title, and interest in the aforesaid invention described in the aforesaid patent applications as well as any Letters Patent of the United States of America issuing therefrom; and

NOW, THEREFORE, to all whom it may concern, be it known for and in consideration of the premises and other valuable considerations, we the undersigned, have sold, assigned, and transferred and by these presents do sell, assign, and transfer unto The Government of the United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter THE GOVERNMENT), and their successors, the full and exclusive right, title, and interest in the invention, patent applications and patent rights throughout the United States of America, its territories and dependencies, and within each and every foreign country in which THE GOVERNMENT elects to file the invention described in the aforesaid patent applications, all rights in the invention and the patent applications, and all Letters Patents and Registrations which may be granted on the same in the United States of America and all countries throughout the world, and to claim the priority from the patent applications as provided by United States law and the Paris Convention, or of any divisional, renewal, continuation in whole or in part, substitution, conversion, reissue, prolongation or extension thereof.

AND, we hereby authorize and request the Commissioner for Patents to issue said Letters Patent or Patents to THE GOVERNMENT as an assignee of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the same throughout the United States of America, its territories and dependencies, and within each and every foreign country in which THE GOVERNMENT elects to file, for the sole use for the full term or terms for which said Letters Patent or Patents and Registrations may be granted thereon, or of any division, renewal, continuation in whole or in part, substitution, conversion, reissue, prolongation or extension thereof which may be granted as fully and entirely as the same would have been held by us, had this assignment not been made;

AND, we hereby warrant that there are no outstanding assignments, grants, liens, encumbrances, or agreements either written, oral, or implied with respect to the aforesaid patent applications which will impair, diminish, limit, or abridge the interest herein conveyed at the time of the execution of this instrument by us;

AND, we hereby agree to execute any and all applications for Letters Patent in the United States of America and foreign countries, and to furnish and deliver to the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, upon request, all data and documents, and to execute any papers which may be necessary for the prosecution of any application or applications of Letters Patent or for THE GOVERNMENT to exercise its rights granted hereunder, including communicating to THE GOVERNMENT, its representatives or agents, any facts relating to said invention, including evidence for interference purposes, or for other proceedings, whenever requested, to testify in any interference or other proceedings, whenever requested, and to execute and deliver on request all lawful papers required to make any of the foregoing provisions effective, and likewise make these provisions binding upon our heirs, legal representatives, administrators and assigns, and we shall assist THE

GOVERNMENT in every way as may be requested in protecting said invention, provided that any expense of extending such assistance shall be paid by THE GOVERNMENT.

We hereby grant the law firm of Klarquist Sparkman, LLP, the power to insert on this Assignment any further information which may be necessary or desirable in order to comply with all applicable legal requirements, including the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, for submitting and recording this document.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have signed their names on the dates indicated.

Dated: 12/13/2002

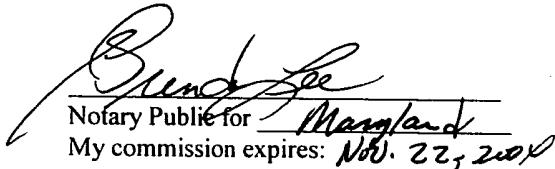


Frank Cuttitta

STATE OF Maryland)  
COUNTY OF Montgomery) ss.

BRENDA LEE  
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND  
My Commission Expires November 22, 2004

This 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2002, before me personally came the above-named Frank Cuttitta, who executed the foregoing Assignment in my presence, and who acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes set forth therein.



Brenda Lee  
Notary Public for Maryland  
My commission expires: Nov. 22, 2004

[SEAL]

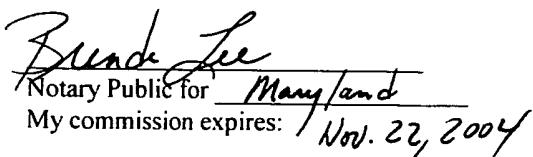
Dated: 12/13/2002



Ted H. Elsasser

STATE OF Maryland)  
COUNTY OF Montgomery) ss.

This 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2002, before me personally came the above-named Ted H. Elsasser, who executed the foregoing Assignment in my presence, and who acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes set forth therein.



Brenda Lee  
Notary Public for Maryland  
My commission expires: Nov. 22, 2004

[SEAL]

Dated: 12/13/2002

A. Martinez

Alfredo Martinez

STATE OF Maryland)  
COUNTY OF Montgomery) ss.

This 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2002, before me personally came the above-named Alfredo Martinez, who executed the foregoing Assignment in my presence, and who acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes set forth therein.

Brenda Lee  
Notary Public for Maryland  
My commission expires:

[SEAL]

BRENDA LEE  
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF MARYLAND  
My Commission Expires November 22, 2004

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Rubén Pio

Witnessed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name and address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Alfredo Martinez

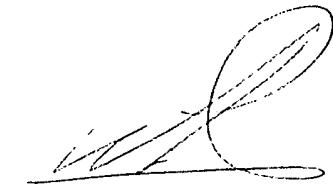
STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ ) ss.

This \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, before me personally came the above-named Alfredo Martinez, who executed the foregoing Assignment in my presence, and who acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes set forth therein.

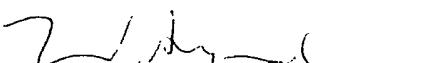
Notary Public for \_\_\_\_\_  
My commission expires:

[SEAL]

Dated: 12/17/02

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rubén Pío

Witnessed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

MARIA S. AYMERICH  
(Print name and address)

JUAN DE TARRAGONA 297-5A  
BIOIS PAMPLONA SPAIN  
\_\_\_\_\_